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offensive Phallus. I do not know the species, but for a day or two before they appear above the ground the odor of carrion prevails, and as soon as visible, they are covered with large flies. They grow on a shady (but not damp) bank, in a poor loamy soil, and follow one another in most annoying succession. If any application to the ground can destroy them I should be greatly obliged for information.

MARTHA BOCKÉE FLINT.

The Agricultural Department.

I was very much interested at Ann Arbor, last August, in two things connected with this department, viz: the action of the botanists with reference to making the national herbarium what it ought to be, and the hearty encouragement given to the new work under the charge of Prof. Scribner. I take this means of asking, either the editors of the GAZETTE, or the officers of the Agricultural Department, what has been the result of the action in these two cases? I know of many botanists ready to assist in both these directions if they can obtain the necessary information.

S. N. T.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Manipulation of the Microscope. By Edward Bausch. Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. Rochester, 1885. 12°. 96 pp. Illust.

The author has attempted, in this little work, to describe the parts of a microscope and their uses in such a clear and concise manner that the beginner, confronted for the first time with a new microscope, may have no difficulty in becoming acquainted with his instrument. We have no hesitancy in saying the object has been admirably accomplished; the language is lucid and simple, the treatment is brief, and yet all essential points have been covered, and the typography, form and cheapness of the work (50 cts.) are commendable.

As the author is a manufacturing microscopist, it is natural to anticipate a strong personal bias, and the reader will therefore be pleased to note that the firm's name occurs but twice in the work, and that it is as free from any advertising dodge as could well be. On the other hand, there is a decided advantage in the author being a well known manufacturer, as one is never at a loss for a concrete conception of the kind of instrument to which the remarks are specially applicable. The chapters of the work are devoted to the simple microscope, compound microscope, objectives and eye-pieces, requisites for work, how to work, advanced manipulation, sub-stage illumination, care of a microscope and considerations in testing objectives.

We commend the work to all who use a microscope, especially those who do not feel themselves full masters of the instrument, and it would also be excellent to put into the hands of the laboratory student at the beginning of his course.

Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the N. Y. State Museum of Natural History: Report of the Botanist. By Charles H. Peck. Albany, 1885. 8 vo. pp. 77-138. 3 plates.

This report is for 1884. It is gratifying to note that hereafter the reports of the Museum staff are to be printed under their immediate supervision, and as soon as ready. The work of the botanist which has been partially interrupted for two years through political interference, has been fully resumed, and the result is seen in the description of sixty-six new species in the present report, including a curious fungus on flies, assigned to a new genus, *Appendicularia*. A monograph of the New York species of *Lactarius* and *Pluteus* is also given, containing forty and nine species respectively. Mr. Peck says very truly that "a descriptive manual of our hymenomycetous fungi is greatly